

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. In response thereto, claims 3 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 1, 5, and 8 are amended. As a result, claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-20 are pending in the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Costello, U.S. Patent No. 6,124,723 (hereinafter "Costello").

Claims 2-9 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Costello in view of Schwidt.

To expedite the prosecution process, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable features recited in the original claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentably distinguish from the cited references.

Claim 11 recites a shielded probe apparatus, capable of electrically testing a semiconductor device at a sub 100fA operating current and an operating temperature up to 300C, comprising a shielded probe and a tri-axial cable that are electrically connected within a shielded chassis. Nowhere in Costello or Schwidt does it disclose or teach a shielded probe capable of electrically testing semiconductor device at a sub 100fA operating current and an operating temperature up to 300C. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references address the problems nor appreciate the solutions that are described in the background and summary of the present invention, as recited in claim 11. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Conclusion

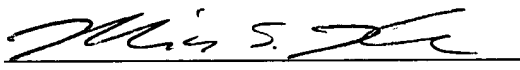
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

Date: May 24, 2005

By: 
Min (Amy) S. Xu, Reg. No. 39,536
Intellectual Property Department
Suite 1500
50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498